

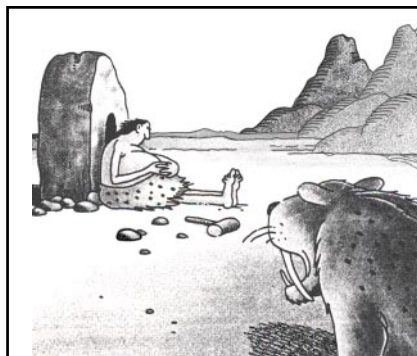
the Daily Constitutional



First is not always best #1

The first person to be killed in an auto accident in the United States

was Henry H. Bliss, a 68-year-old real estate broker. On Sept. 14, 1899, in New York City, Bliss stepped from a streetcar, turned to assist a woman passenger, and was hit by a cab.



Thor Arnoldsen becomes the first fatality as a result of falling asleep at the wheel.

Seat belt safety suggestions

- Always wear a seat belt – every time you travel.
- Make sure that all occupants, whether in the front or back of the car, use their seat belts.
- Lap-and-diagonal seat belts are preferable to lap-only belts.
- The belt should always be adjusted properly, with the lap part as low as possible over the hips. Always ensure that the shoulder belt lies on the chest and over the shoulder, there should be no slack in the belt at all.
- Avoid wearing any thick clothing under the seat belt as this could interfere with the effectiveness of the belt action.
- Do not use padding to improve seat belt comfort.



Where have all the orange cones gone?

One of our safety committee members gave a demonstration in our parking lot on how far away vehicle 1 going 70 mph would have to be from vehicle 2 before vehicle 1 slammed on this brakes to avoid hitting vehicle 2 in front of him. From a parked vehicle, the demonstrator asked 6 people to take the orange cones he had, and to place them where vehicle 1 (going 70 mph) should be in order not to hit vehicle 2. He then measured the distance from the parked car to where the 70 mph vehicle should be. All six people misplaced the cone by a huge amount. Most were only half the distance they should be. It made everyone aware of driving safely by actually “seeing” this demonstration instead of sitting around talking about it.

Richard Hawk & Company

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

VPP Star Site

INEEL Indy 500

(note: some of the information below came from a letter in the Arco Advertiser, Jan. 23, 2003)

Letter To The Editor:

This concerns the workers who enter and leave RWMC from U.S. Highway 20. Traffic does not stop nor is it required to stop for you as you enter or leave your work place. As a person who has driven from Arco to Argonne National Laboratory every weekday for the past 18 years, believe me when I say that I have seen plenty of idiot drivers. I have had two near misses at the intersection in the past year alone; once in the morning, when an oncoming car turned into RWMC directly in front of me, and one in the afternoon when a car darted across the highway in front of me and headed north toward Central. Every day, as I approach the intersection it is a Vegas bet as to what will happen next. I often tell my family that if I am in a car accident, it will be at that intersection. It scares me.

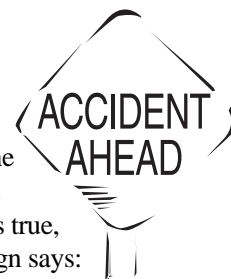
Yesterday, I witnessed someone else in an accident at the intersection. A car, waiting to cross the highway from Central towards RWMC, drove into the path of an oncoming minivan headed east. The driver of the minivan managed to swerve and miss the car. However, physics took over and resulted in a roll-over. The driver continued on toward RWMC without being aware that he had just caused a serious accident.

And, would you believe that even tonight as I was headed home, within 5 miles of the RWMC intersection, a car from behind me passed on a solid yellow line. As you can guess, there was an unseen oncoming car, whereby the passing driver whipped in front of me. I was well into braking when this happened. They then proceeded on and turned into RWMC. Some of you drivers are in direct competition for a Darwin Award. You cannot assume that every driver and car on that highway follows your work pattern, will be turning into or leaving RWMC just like you. Use your head, follow the traffic rules and drive safely.

D. Tate, Arco, Idaho

Signs on the road

There is a town in Maryland called Accident. It sits on a major state highway linking western Maryland with the rest of the state. On the approach to the town is a road sign that doubles as a warning and is always true, no matter what the traffic condition. The sign says: “ACCIDENT AHEAD.”



Submit your “Safety Stories” – both on and off the job – to VPP Program Office at “ID:bwh@inel.gov” or Fax 6-0665